

PHILADELPHIA
LINCOLNIANA
STAMP
DEPARTMENTS

DRAWING 21

PHILADELPHIA
MUSEUM

71.2009.085.05.008

Philately

Lincoln-Douglas Debates Stamp

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Chicago Sun-Times
April 6, 1958

STAMPS New Series Will Honor Lincoln

By Charles Hahn

The United States will issue a series of stamps, not to exceed four, to honor the 150th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12, 1809).

The first will commemorate the Lincoln-Douglas debates, and will be placed on first day sale at Freeport, Ill., on Aug. 27. Freeport was the site of one of the most important of the debates.

The second stamp will be issued Feb. 12, 1959. No decision has been reached as to the other stamps in this series.

News Round-Up From Washington

The 4c Lincoln-Douglas Debates commemorative of August 27 was based on a design by Ervine Metzl with modeling by William K. Schrage of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It reproduces only a portion of an old print by Joseph Boggs Beale.

Matthew D. Fenton engraved the vignette and Reuben K. Barrick the frame, lettering and numeral. Plates 26105-06-07-08 were assigned to this stamp.

A total of 1,134,121 stamps was sold, and 708,777 covers canceled, when the 4c and 8c Simon Bolivar set was issued in Washington July 24. No figures are given in the POD report for the values individually.

The 7c airmail stamp released in Philadelphia July 31 enjoyed first day sales of 862,478 stamps (\$60,373.46) with 204,401 FDC's. The 7c airmail coil reached 181,603 covers canceled and 258,498 stamps sold (\$18,094.86) on the same day in Miami, Fla.

Back toward the East, in Wheeling, W. Va., the 4c Lincoln booklet registered a total of 703,954 stamps (as singles, \$28,158.16) and 135,825 FDC's. This also was on July 31.

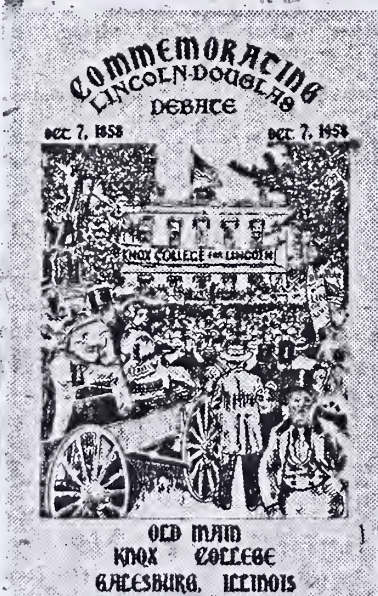
Commenting on the July 31 FD of six new adhesives and four new postal stationery items, plus one more the next day, Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield stated that a new FD record is imminent. With only three of the eleven items reported thus far, the FDC total is already 521,829. All the stationery, and the 4c coil, 5c airmail adhesive and 7c airmail booklet are yet to be heard from.

A special postal station, with cancellation and a stock of Philatelic Agency stamps, has been approved by the POD for the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philatelic Society exhibition, Scranton, Pa. September 27-28.

Another branch station of the same type will be operated August 30-September 1 at the "BAPEX" convention and exhibition at Bakersfield, Calif. Collectors desiring specimens of either cancel may send stamped, addressed envelopes with requests to the postmasters concerned.

Original Scene On Debate Cachet

Research and originality entered into planning the cachet and two full-color picture postcards being offered by the Galesburg, Ill. Philatelic Society to mark the centenary of the Lincoln-Douglas debate in that town. The event transpired in front of "Old Main", of Knox College, October 7, 1858.



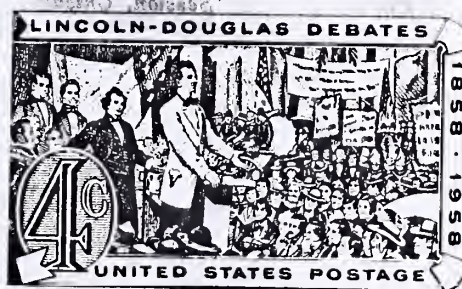
One card and the cachet show the scene of the day as depicted by contemporary artist Victor Perard of New York. It is very similar to that published when the Lincoln-Douglas stamp was announced in Linn's of April 7. In fact, comparison indicates that the latter was evidently based on the Perard original as a model, probably about 1908 in preparation for the 1909 Lincoln centennial.

The second card is a three quarters right front view of the speakers' platform, with Lincoln

in action and the recognizable Douglas seated behind him, awaiting his turn. The original was drawn by Ralph Fletcher Seymour, Chicago artist, especially for the present Knox College celebration.

The cachet will be applied gratis to all covers, properly addressed and franked at the 4c rate, sent to the Galesburg Philatelic Society, P. O. Drawer 430, Galesburg, Ill. by October 4. The full-color postcards are 10c each, franked with the 4c Lincoln stamp, properly cacheted and posted on the anniversary date. Collectors should specify whether the close-up or general view card is desired.

**LINCOLN-DOUGLAS
DEBATE STAMP**



In 1858, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, Senatorial candidates, engaged in a series of historical debates in Illinois. Lincoln was for abolishment of slavery; Douglas for leaving the matter to the states. Douglas was elected. Two years later, he lost to Lincoln for the presidency. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Douglas toured the North and West in support of the Union, contracting a disease which caused his death in 1861. He was a member of Springfield (Ill.) Lodge No. 4, and first Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Illinois. The cornerstone of the huge monument over the grave of "The Little Giant" in Chicago was laid in 1866 with Masonic ceremonies.

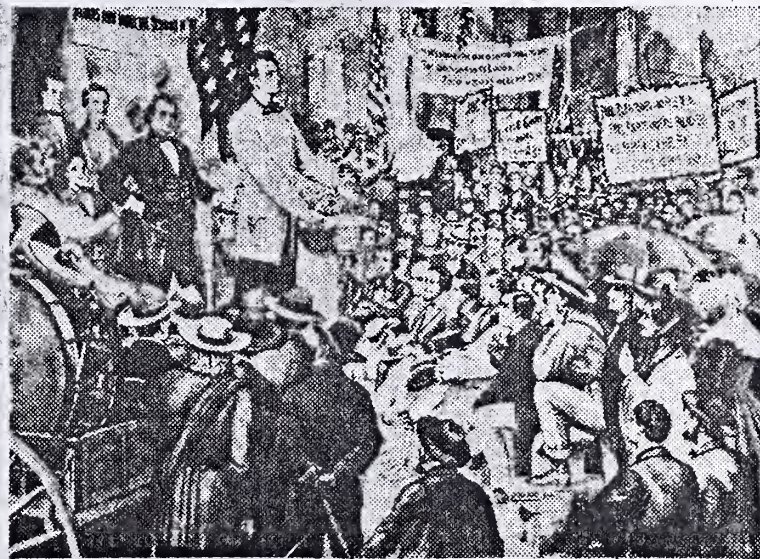
—John A. Mirt, Chicago.

Lincoln's Popularity Not Yet Nationwide

According to a recent news dispatch from Suffolk, Va., postal clerks in that little southern town are encountering sales resistance to the 4c Lincoln regular stamp, which became standard for letter mail when rates went up August 1.

Several patrons, mostly older persons, consistently refuse to buy the Lincoln adhesives, ordering instead the 3c Liberty and the 1c Washington to make the proper rate.

One elderly woman, the story relates, spurned Lincoln four-centers but was intrigued by a commemorative the clerk showed her. She bought a sheet. Ten minutes later she returned, indignantly flinging the stamps back at him. He had sold her the Lincoln-Douglas Debate commemorative.



"EDGAR COUNTY/FOR THE/TALL SUCKER", is the legend on the banner at the extreme right of the Joseph Boggs Beale painting which served as the model for the August 27 Lincoln-Douglas Debates stamp issued at Freeport, Ill. It was cropped from the stamp design, along with top and bottom areas of the original painting. Edgar county was within reasonable horse-and-buggy distance of Charleston only, of the seven debates sites, thereby posing another Lincoln mystery: Does the Freeport stamp actually depict the Charleston encounter of the "Rail Splitter" and the "Little Giant"?

CONSERVATION



GARDENING



THE WINNAHS! . . . AT BOTH ENDS OF THE CLASS face the public. The more than 21,500 Linn's readers who cast their ballots awarded the Best Design laurels to the 4c Forest Conservation commemorative, then doubled up on the Gardening and Horticulture adhesive with both the Worst Design and Least Necessary dubious honors. A fair runner-up in the Best Design category was the Mackinac Bridge stamp.

Gardening Worst And Least Necessary; Record Quantity Of Ballots In Design Derby

Carl P. Rueth

Stamp collectors of the United States and eleven foreign nations have once again expressed their opinions of a year's crop of commemoratives, those of 1958, through the medium of the 11th Annual Design Derby. The Derby, begun in 1948 by Linn's Weekly Stamp News and continued each year since, is by far the largest and most authoritative sampling of public opinion on United States stamp designs in this country. Voting was done by mail by individuals and groups beginning on January 1 and continuing through February 23. A record number of them was received, 2000 more than in the next previous high year which reported the results of the 1957 stamps (1958).

11TH ANNUAL DESIGN DERBY RESULTS

Votes	% of Votes	% of Votes
Best Design	Worst Design	Least Necessary
Conservation 5727	Gardening 35.2	Gardening 37.4
Mackinac Bridge 3860	Journalism 18.6	Gunston Hall 33.4
Overland Mail 2744	IGY 16.0	Journalism 6.0
Minnesota 1851	Fort Duquesne 5.0	Fort Duquesne 3.6
Fort Duquesne 1252	Brussels Fair 4.7	Mackinac Bridge
IGY 1246	Lincoln-Douglas 4.6	Lincoln-Douglas
Atlantic Cable 1145	Monroe 4.4	Monroe
Brussels Fair 629	Atlantic Cable 3.6	Kossuth 8c
Lincoln-Douglas 564	Gunston Hall	Atlantic Cable
Journalism 536	Minnesota	Brussels Fair
Bolivar 8c 460	Conservation	IGY
Kossuth 8c 374	Webster	Webster
Gardening 329	Overland Mail	Overland Mail
Gunston Hall 257	Mackinac Bridge	Bolivar 8c
Webster 165	Kossuth 4c	Kossuth 4c
Monroe 156	Kossuth 8c	Conservation
Bolivar 4c 139	Bolivar 4c	Bolivar 4c
Kossuth 4c 101	Bolivar 8c	Minnesota
21,535	100.0	100.0

Conservation Best '58 Design

Voters supported the Forest Conservation issue, a multi-color one, as the **Best Design**. In second place with a substantial quantity of approval was the Mackinac Bridge in a single color. In third was the Overland Mail, another mono-color design.

A respectable segment of the voters also lent some support to the following, each of which was given more than 1000 votes — Minnesota, Fort Duquesne, IGY and Atlantic Cable. The totals earned by the others might be considered in the light of token support since none of them captured the public fancy to any great extent.

In the tabulations of the statistics in the various categories it must be remembered that each was considered as a separate contest. The standing of a design in **BEST** had no relation or correlation how the voter felt about it as **WORST** or **LEAST NECESSARY**. The stamp stood on its own in each of the three.

Rudolph Wendelin, a staff artist for the U.S. Department of Agricul-

ture, conceived the design of the winning Forest Conservation. He has specialized in art and illustrations of forestry conservation and was given a "Superior Service Award" in 1957 by the Department for his excellence in this field.

The "best" Conservation was released at Tucson, Ariz. on October 27.

Another non-Bureau of Engraving and Printing designer was responsible for the second place Mackinac Bridge commem. He is Arnold Copeland a member of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee. The "Bridge" stamp had its day of issue on June 25. It was available from the cities on each end of the Straits of Mackinac spanning structure, Mackinac City and St. Ignace, Mich.

The third place Overland Mail was adapted to a stamp design from an already existing work of art by Charles R. Chickering and William H. Buckley, both of the Bureau.

Of almost as much interest to the

philatelic public as the annual Best design, is that considered Worst. The winner here is a "two time loser" for it was also voted the stamp Least Necessary. The latter category designates the commcm with the least reason to be issued.

Chosen for the dubious double "honor" is the Gardening and Horticulture which made its debut at Ithaca, N.Y. on March 15, the first of the crop for 1958. It was intended to honor the Gardening Clubs of the United States and Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey. However, the stamp has no indication whatsoever that Dr. Bailey, the famed horticulturist, shared in the tribute.

Second and third place Worst stamps getting quite a bit of the negative criticism were the Journalism and the IGY (International Geophysical Year). The former is the work of Lester Beal and Charles Goslin, independent designers; the latter by Ervine Metzl, a member of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee.

Also frowned on by collectors, but to a lesser extent, were the Fort Duquesne, Brussels Fair, Lincoln-Douglas, Monroe and the Atlantic Cable. The other ten designs drew little attention for Worst.

Two stamps copped most of the ballots in the Least Necessary department, the winning Gardening and the second place Gunston Hall. Both stamps were resented at the time they were announced as the products of pressure groups — they were not considered of sufficient national historical importance, or in keeping with the requirements established by the Advisory Committee for a stamp to be authorized.

Only two other commems were given more than token disapproval in this category, the third Journalism and the fourth Fort Duquesne. The other fourteen issues seem to

have been generally acceptable.

Because of demands for an opportunity to further express an opinion on inadequate designs, voters were asked to mark those stamps which they believed were "Below Average In Looks". They could designate whether they felt such designs were "Poor", or "Bad". They were also permitted to mark as many designs as they felt warranted the disapproval.

Designated "Poor" in a substantial manner were the Gardening, Brussels Fair, Monroe, IGY, Atlantic Cable, Lincoln-Douglas, Journalism and Fort Duquesne.

Considered "Bad" were the Gardening (heavily), IGY, and Journalism.

Only the eighteen commemoratives of 1958 appeared on the ballot. The regulars, airmails and postal stationery released last year were passed over as candidates since when they were included in past Derbies little attention was given them.

Designs Below Average In Looks

	Poor	Bad
Gardening	1410	1984
Brussels Fair	1344	598
Monroe	948	524
Minnesota	474	158
IGY	1232	1216
Gunston Hall	702	324
Mackinac Bridge	144	40
Bolivar 4c	292	72
Bolivar 8c	144	40
Atlantic Cable	1034	432
Kossuth 4c	194	58
Lincoln-Douglas	1080	508
Kossuth 8c	144	52
Journalism	1372	1310
Overland Mail	490	170
Webster	520	212
Conservation	405	170
Fort Duquesne	1116	612



14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100

